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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [PINR](#) [SW](#) [XA](#)

SUBJECT: OBAMA-REINFELDT DOMINATE HEADLINES IN SWEDEN

¶1. (U) SUMMARY: All major news outlets covered the bilateral meeting between President Obama and Prime Minister Reinfeldt on November 2 and focused on the climate change discussion. Outlets relayed Reinfeldt's sentiments on the importance of an agreement at the summit in December with an understanding that the political process in the United States may delay a binding international agreement. The news also reported that President Obama spoke positively about Sweden's work on climate solutions as well as Swedish support in Afghanistan. END SUMMARY

BROADCAST MEDIA

¶2. (U) The Obama-Reinfeldt meeting was the lead story in all national broadcast media, the public service channel Swedish Television, the national commercial channel TV4 and the nation-wide public service Swedish Radio both the evening of November 2 and the morning of November 3. Reports focused on the talks between President Obama and Prime Minister Reinfeldt on the current status of climate negotiations, relaying President Obama's praise of Reinfeldt's approach to climate issues and Sweden's leadership role. The reports also mentioned President Obama thanking Sweden and the EU for its contribution to efforts in Afghanistan.

¶3. (U) Media also reported on Prime Minister Reinfeldt's press conference after the meeting, quoting Reinfeldt saying that he understands the difficulties with the political process in the United States and that "we are prepared to listen," but wishing to see a demonstration of political willingness. They also cited that Reinfeldt hopes there will be a binding political agreement in Copenhagen even though all the technical details may not be ready.

PRINT MEDIA

¶4. (U) Swedish morning dailies Dagens Nyheter and Svenska Dagbladet quoted President Obama stating, "I'm glad to have the Prime Minister here, I appreciate his leadership on climate change" and "[his] thoughtful manner in approaching the issues." Print outlets also reported on Reinfeldt's press conference where he reiterated, "We have to work together," and that the climate issue is not static. Svenska Dagbladet commented that it was again made clear that the most the world can expect in Copenhagen is a first step towards a climate agreement.

OP-EDS

¶5. (U) In the major morning daily "Dagens Nyheter" there were two opinion pieces: an article by Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt under the headline: "Now The United States And China Have To Follow The EU On The Climate Issue," and a signed editorial by columnist Annika Strm-Melin on the U.S-EU relationship under the headline: "Atlantic

Love-Hate."

¶6. (U) Prime Minister Reinfeldt outlined how he will use the three EU summits (with the United States, India and China) before the Copenhagen meeting in December to pressure these key countries to increase their ambitions. "My message to both President Obama, and to the Senate, and the Congress is: Now is the time to put the climate in focus, with a two-degree target as a guiding light. We agree on what needs to be done in the long run - but to succeed we must also have aggressive medium-term objectives..."

"With just over a month left to the Climate Summit, UN negotiations are still progressing slowly. Many have ruled out any prospects of success. But Copenhagen might not be the end station; the Kyoto Treaty was not completed in 1997, but in 2001. But it would be a major political failure to not reach an agreement in December."

¶7. (U) Columnist Annika Strm-Melin opined on the U.S-EU relationship.

"The relationship between the U.S. and the EU has always been complicated, but strong. It sometimes resembles a sort of love-hate...but since President Obama took office as U.S. President, the pendulum has without doubt swung firmly in the other direction again. European leaders are fighting to be invited to the White House and would most of all like to get a one-on-one meeting with Obama..."

"But there is also a new, interesting shift in the EU leaders' way of talking about the world's only superpower. They seem not only outraged when they criticize the United States for shortcomings during the ongoing climate negotiations. It sounds as if they are

also quite pleased to once again get to put the United States in its place."

SILVERMAN